

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 201806

NODIS

FOLLOWING RPEAT AMMAN 4871 ACTION SECSTATE 24 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4871

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, JO, PK, US, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH CROWN PRINCE--PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: GENERAL ZIA AL-HAQUE HAS SENT CROWN
PRINCE HASSAN A MESSAGE FOLLOWING HASSAN'S TALK
WITH YOU AUGUST 11 IN AMMAN. THE GENERAL WELCOMES
THE TALKS IN WHICH HASSAN PASSED ON TO YOU HIS
IMPRESSIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN, REAFFIRMS

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PAKISTAN'S COMMITMENTS TO TRADITIONAL CLOSE
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S., URGES POSITIVE
CONSIDERATION BY U.S. OF QUESTIONS OF NUCLEAR
REPROCESSING FACILITY, AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
AID, INDICATES DESIRE FOR CREATING A "GOOD
LINK" TO U.S. THROUGH OUR NEW AMBASSADOR IN
ISLAMABAD AND REPEATS PAKISTAN'S INVITATION TO

YOU TO VISIT DURING EXPECTED UPCOMING TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA. HASSAN SAID BHUTTO HAD BEEN CONSIDERING CALLING IN THE SOVIETS IF U.S. WAS NOT POSITIVE; GENERAL ZIA HAS ABANDONED THIS IDEA AND WANTS U.S. TO KNOW IT. HASSAN PERSONALLY BELIEVES BHUTTO WILL NOT STAND FOR RE-ELECTION AND THAT GENERAL ZIA IS DETERMINED TO MAKE ELECTIONS WORK IN OCTOBER. HASSAN SAID SHAH IS UNDULY ALARMED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PAKISTAN AND GENERAL ZIA HAS ALREADY MOVED TO CURB BALUCH INDEPENDENCE TYPES WHO MIGHT ACT AGAINST IRANIAN INTERESTS. PAKISTANIS HOPE FOR MORE SUPPORT AND AID FROM IRAN.
END SUMMARY

1. CROWN PRINCE CALLED ME ON AUGUST 20 TO FOLLOW UP HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU AUGUST 11 ON HIS VISIT TO PAKISTAN. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP THIS INFORMATION PARTICULARLY CLOSE.

2. HASSAN READ ME LETTER FROM GENERAL AL-HAQUE AND ASKED ME TO TAKE NOTES ON THE LETTER TO GIVE YOU A FULL IDEA OF THE CONINUING EXCHANGE. LETTER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) THANKED HASSAN FOR PASSING ON TO YOU
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CERTAIN IDEAS WHICH WERE "COMPLETELY IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR BILATERAL TALKS."

B) GENERAL STRESSED CONTINUITY OF PAKISTAN'S TRADITIONAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ITS INTENTION TO HONOR ALL AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATE WITH THE U.S.

C) THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR PAKISTAN. HERE HASSAN ADDED A PERSONAL INTERPOLATION THAT GENERAL ZIA CANNOT MOVE BACK ON AN ISSUE ON WHICH PREVIOUSLY MAJOR PAKISTANI POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BEEN IN AGREEMENT. HASSAN ALSO STRESSED APPLICABILITY OF PAKISTAN'S WILLINGNESS TO STAND BEHIND ALL PAST BILATERAL COMMITMENTS TO THE U.S.

D) GENERAL ZIA HAS MET ONCE WITH THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN AND HAS ALREADY BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY HIM. HASSAN SAID GENERAL ZIA HAD KNOWN PAST U.S. AMBASSADOR QUITE WELL AND HE HOPED TO CREATE A GOOD LINK WITH THE U.S. THROUGH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL.

E) PAKISTAN WAS AWARE THAT YOU INTENDED TO VISIT SOUTH ASIA SHORTLY AND GENERAL ZIA WISHED TO RENEW PAKISTAN'S STANDING INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT THE COUNTRY AND HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DO SO DURING YOUR FORTHCOMING TRIP.

3. HASSAN AND I THEN DISCUSSED THE QUESTION FURTHER. HE SAID GENERAL ZIA HAD TOLD HIM THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO PRIOR TO THE TAKE-OVER HAD INFORMED THE PAKISTAN MILITARY GENERAL STAFF THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS IF THE U.S. CONTINUED TO BE NEGATIVE ON A NUMBER OF POINTS INCLUDING THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

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HASSAN STRESSED THAT THE LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM GENERAL AL-HAQUE WAS DESIGNED TO CONVEY TO THE U.S. THAT THIS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT. HASSAN SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU THAT THE U.S. STILL HOPED TO RECONVENE ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM SOMETIME IN OCTOBER AND HE HOPED THAT CERTAIN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IN THE PIPELINE FOR PAKISTAN.

4. HASSAN COMMENTED THAT JOSEPH NYE HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED IN PAKISTAN AND UNDERSTOOD WELL THE PAKISTANI POSITION. FURTHER, THERE HAD BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM (HASSAN) TO LET GENERAL ZIA KNOW OF THE U.S. FEELING THAT EVERYTIME THE U.S. TRIED TO RAISE PROBLMS OR ISSUES, THE PREVIOUS PAKISTANI REACTION HAD BEEN TO BRING DOWN THE BOOM ON THE U.S. HASSAN INSISTED THAT GENERAL ZIA WAS TRYING TO ENTER INTO A NEW RELATIONSHIP AND A NEW SPIRIT ON THIS KIND OF ISSUE. AGAIN HASSAN STRESSED BHUTTO'S PREVIOUS INTENTION TO MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS AND GNERAL ZIA'S OPPOSITE INCLINATIONS.

5. I ASKED HASSAN ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. HE SAID THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS IN A DILEMMA WHERE MOVING TOO SLOW WILL RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR INTENTION TO TURN THINGS OVER TO CIVIL RULE AND MOVING TOO FAST RISKS NOT BEING PROPERLY PREPARED. GENERAL ZIA IS COOL, DETERMINED, AND CONFIDENT HE CAN BRING OFF THE ELECTIONS. HASSAN TOLD ME IT WAS HIS OWN PERSONAL JUDGMENT THAT BHUTTO WILL NOT STAND IN OCTOBER. HE SAID THAT THE INCREASING EXPOSURE OF THE CORRUPTION AND MAL-ADMINISTRATION OF THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT WOULD

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KEEP BHUTTO OUT OF THE RACE. AT THE MOMENT
GENERAL ZIA WAS GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID
PUTTING BHUTTO BACK INTO JAIL PARTLY TO AVOID MAKING A
MARTYR OF HIM.

6. HASSAN, AS YOU KNOW, IS EXTREMELY SYMPATHETIC
WITH GENERAL ZIA'S EFFORTS AND BELIEVES THE GENERAL
IS SINCERE. HE MADE A SPZCIAL POINT OF TELLING
ME THAT ZIA THINKS CAREFULLY AHEAD ABOUT HIS
MOVES AND HAS AROUND HIM A COTERIE OF EXCELLENT
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ADVISORS FROM THE SENIOR
TECHNICAL LEVELS OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT. HE MENTIONED IN
PARTICULAR THE HEADS OF THE CIVIL AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICES.

7. GENERAL ZIA BADLY WANTS MORE UNDERSTANDING
AND ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN. HASSAN DISCOUNTED
HEAVILY SHAH'S CONCERNS (WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN
EXPRESSED TO HUSSEIN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO
IRAN) THAT GENERAL ZIA'S ELECTIONS WILL LEAD
TO INTRODUCTION OF MORE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC
INFLUENCE. HASSAN SAID SHAH CONFUSES HIS OWN CONSERVATIVE
MULLAHS WITH THOSE IN PAKISTAN; THERE IS
LITTLE REAL COMPARABILITY. HASSAN ALSO TOLD ME
THAT BALUCH INDEPENDENT GROUP LEADER (RAHUR?)
HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO KARACHI TO ALLAY
SHAH'S FEARS. SHAH WAS APPARENTLY THINKING
ABOUT SENDING IRANIAN TROOPS TO SOUTHEASTERN
PART OF HIS COUNTRY IN EXPECTATION OF A RE-
SURGENCE OF BALUCHI NATIONALISM AND INDEPEN-
DENCE UNDER NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

8. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO ISLAMABAD
AND TEHRAN.
PICKERING.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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Message Attributes

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